



## Ethnoarchaeology: A cultural footprint of those who lived on RSA pre-1940

WILL PROVIDE A FRAMEWORK FOR INTERPRETING THE HISTORIC ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES ON RSA

RSA has initiated an ethnoarchaeological study designed to gain a holistic understanding of the cultural footprint of RSA land. This multi-disciplinary approach utilizes the data collected from archeological surveys, ethnographic studies, oral histories, anthropological theory, documentary and archival research, and cultural resource management assessments.



**Yancy Horton donates the land and a school for black children is built by the Hortons, Lacey, Jacobs, and other neighborhood families.**

The results will enable a far deeper understanding of the histories of the archaeological sites than is provided by archaeological survey alone. Incorporation of the archival and ethnographic data with archaeological data from numerous sites will be used to construct not only the portrait of a specific site, but as the building blocks for the construction of a cultural landscape for a community or region.

The use of anthropological theory for constructing site type models from archaeological, ethnohistorical, and archival data allows the sites to be grouped by type. Grouping sites by applying carefully constructed site-type models will allow the Cultural Resources Program to determine the historic archaeological sites of each type that are

the most worthy of further archaeological testing (Phase II testing).



**Felix and Georgia Lanier share their memories of their young years when they lived on the land that is now RSA.**

RSA is working closely with the State Archaeologist in developing a research model for the ethnoarchaeological study that will serve as the basis for proposing a programmatic agreement (PA) with the Alabama State Historic Preservation Office (ALSHPO).

It is the goal of the Cultural Resource Program that such a PA will be established, thus allowing RSA to focus its funding on studying the sites on the installation that have the most potential to yield valuable information, while simultaneously clearing other sites from further research requirements. This would: (1) free restrictions on many buildable and mission-essential areas on the installation; (2) eliminate the long response time for Phase II testing; and (3) be completed at a fraction of the cost required for numerous Phase II investigations—a win, win, win result!